



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District**

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Public Affairs

Corps Facts

District Missions

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Disaster Response

The Corps of Engineers may provide help to save human life, prevent immediate human suffering or mitigate property damage. Assistance is limited to the preservation of life and the protection of public property, to include public and private facilities that provide public services. During natural disaster and other emergencies, the Corps provides drinking water and ice, cleans up debris, provides auxiliary power and makes repairs. The Corps provides technical advice to state and federal officials by inspecting and assessing damaged areas.

Environmental Management

The St. Paul District Environmental Management Program is intended to ensure the coordinated development and enhancement of the Upper Mississippi River system, with primary emphasis on habitat restoration and protection projects. Habitat projects include dredging backwater areas and channels, constructing dikes, creating and stabilizing islands and controlling side channel flows and water levels. In this district, the projects are located along the Minnesota River and Mississippi River from Guttenberg, Iowa, to Minneapolis, a distance of 250 river miles.

Flood Control

When a storm hits, Corps built and maintained dams and reservoirs hold excess water gradually to prevent or reduce downstream flooding. These flood control structures provide fun, as well as safety. Reservoirs provide water supply storage for communities and protected ecosystems for fish and wildlife. In cities near waterways, floodwalls, levees and diversion channels all work to keep storm water out of homes, schools and businesses. The Corps also helps reduce flood damage by preventing additional construction in areas most prone to floods.

Navigation

The Corps maintains navigation channels, much like road crews maintain highways, and builds breakwaters or jetties to protect homes and businesses from crashing waves. Improvements include deepening and widening the river channels, so commercial ships and other watercraft can move safely and easily. To achieve a 9-foot channel in the upper Mississippi, the construction of a system of navigation locks and dams was authorized in 1930. The St. Paul District has jurisdiction over the 13 uppermost structures – No. 10 at Guttenberg, Iowa, to Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam in Minneapolis.

Regulatory

The St. Paul District's regulatory jurisdiction covers the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin. A Corps' permit is required to do any work in, over or under a navigable water of the United States. These waters include many of the larger rivers and lakes, such as the Minnesota, St. Croix and Mississippi rivers, as well as Lake Superior, the Mississippi headwaters lakes and wetlands. A Corps' permit is required for the discharge of dredged- or fill-material into waters of the United States.

Recreation

The Corps is one of the nation's largest providers of outdoor recreation, operating more than 2,500 recreation areas at 463 projects (mostly lakes) and leasing an additional 1,800 sites to state or local park or private interests. The Corps hosts about 360 million visits a year at its lakes, beaches and other areas, and estimates that 25 million Americans (one in 10) visit a Corps project at least once a year. The St. Paul District maintains 94 recreation areas open to the public.